

United States Government

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: January 29, 2004

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-133)

to: Mickey Carter
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager - KEWU-4

Proposed Action: Idaho Model Watershed Habitat Projects- Basin Creek AFO

Project No: 1994-017-00

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS): 3.7 Critical Area Planting; 5.1 Heavy Use Area Protection; 5.3 Waste Management Plan; 5.4 Waste Storage and Treatment; 5.13 Alternative Water Source; 6.9 Water Supply: Spring Development

Location: Lemhi County, Idaho

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Lemhi Soil and Water Conservation District

Description of the Proposed Action: The Bonneville Power Administration is proposing to fund the relocation of a cattle feeding operation that is currently located along a creek to an upland bench. The work will involve the construction of 1,000 feet of fence, a concrete scraping lane, and 1,000 feet of corral berm. In addition, off-channel water sites will be developed. All activities will take place in either the existing corrals or the proposed area of enlargement, which has been in alfalfa/grass production for the last 50-75 years. The proposed feedlot improvements will bring the owners into compliance with Idaho State Law and should result in benefits to water quality in the adjacent creek.

Analysis: The NEPA compliance checklist for this project was completed by Carl Rudeen with the Lemhi Soil and Water Conservation District (January 15, 2004) and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed species that may occur in the general vicinity of the project area are Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon, Snake River steelhead, Columbia River bull trout, gray wolf, bald eagle, Canadian lynx, and Ute Ladies'-Tresses. It was determined that the proposed project would have no effect on gray wolf, bald eagle, Canadian lynx, or Ute Ladies'-Tresses since these species are not known to occur in the project area. It was also determined that the proposed project would have no effect on ESA listed aquatic species since impacts will be minor and will occur in the uplands away from the stream and riparian area.

Requirements associated with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act were handled by the Natural Resource Conservation Service in cooperation with staff from the U.S. Forest Service, Boise National Forest. The project description and site information was reviewed by a qualified archaeologist and it was determined that the Basin Creek AFO project does not require an archaeological survey to proceed. These findings were made in compliance with the established Programmatic Agreement between the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office and the Natural Resource Conservation Service. In the unlikely event that archaeological material is discovered as part of this project, an archaeologist should be notified immediately and work halted in the vicinity of the finds until they can be inspected and assessed.

Standard water quality protection procedures and Best Management Practices will be followed during the implementation of the Basin Creek AFO project. No construction is authorized to begin until the proponent has obtained all applicable local, state, and federal permits and approvals including water rights.

Public involvement has occurred as part of the Basin Creek AFO project. This project was discussed and approved by the following groups and agencies: Lemhi Soil and Water Conservation District, Idaho Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Idaho Soil Conservation Commission, Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Project (USBWP) Technical Team which includes representation from the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, and the USBWP Advisory Committee.

Findings: The project is generally consistent with Section 7.6A.2, 7.6B.3, & 7.8E.1, of the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. This Supplement Analysis finds 1) that the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265) and ROD, and, 2) that there are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Shannon Stewart
Shannon C. Stewart
Environmental Specialist

CONCUR:

/s/ Thomas McKinney
Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 1-29-04

Attachments:
NEPA Compliance Checklist
NRCS Project Request for Cultural Resource Assistance, September 18, 2003

cc: (w/ attachments)
Mr. Bruce McConnell – Lemhi Soil and Water Conservation District